

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Michael D. Dixon ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Serial No.: Unknown ) Examiner: Unknown  
Filed: August 17, 2001 )  
For: BI-DIRECTIONAL PROCESS-TO- )  
PROCESS BYTE STREAM )  
PROTOCOL )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 - 17 and add claims 18 - 32.

18. A method for communicating with a server comprising:

transmitting a request in accordance with a first format from a client to a server,  
said first format request adapted to establish a communication session with said server;  
and

establishing a communication link with the server in accordance with a second  
format, if the client does not receive a response to the first format request.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitting step further comprises  
maintaining a communication path with the server in accordance with the first format if  
the client receives a response to the first format request.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein the maintaining step further comprises transmitting at least a second request in accordance with said first format from said client to said server, wherein the server is adapted to maintain an open communication link with the client by keeping at least one of said first format requests outstanding.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the establishing step further comprises the step of maintaining a communication path with the server in accordance with the second format request.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the first format is Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) formatted communications.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the second format is the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) formatted communications.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the establishing step further comprises transmitting a request in accordance with a second format from the client to the server, said second format request adapted to establish a communication session with said server.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the establishing step further comprises transmitting at least a second request in accordance with said second format from the client to the server, wherein the server is adapted to maintain an open communication link with the client by keeping at least one said second format request outstanding.

26. A method for communicating with a server, comprising:

transmitting a first request from a client, said first request comprising a plurality of messages;

receiving a response from a server, said response including an indication of which of said messages were received from the client; and

transmitting a second request to the server if said response indicates that at least one of said messages was not received from the client, said second request comprising at least one of message from said first request that was not received by said server.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said step of transmitting a second request further comprises removing the messages received by the server from the client.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of messages at the client; and

sending a subsequent request to the server if a predetermined number of additional messages accumulate.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the transmitting step further comprises re-transmitting said first request from the client if a predetermined period of time passes before said client receives said response from the server.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the receiving step further comprises:  
receiving a response from a server, said response including an indication of which of said messages were received from the client; and  
processing said messages by the server, wherein the server is adapted to maintain an open communication link with the client by keeping at least one of said plurality of messages outstanding.

31. A method for communicating with a client, comprising:  
receiving at least two requests from the client, said requests comprising a plurality of messages; and  
resolving at least one message;  
wherein the server is adapted to maintain an open communication link with the client by keeping at least one of said plurality of messages outstanding.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
receiving a response from the server, said response including an indication of which of said messages were received by the server;  
removing the messages received by the server from the client; and  
transmitting a second request to the server if said response indicates that at least one message was not received by the server, said second request comprising messages from said first request not received by the server.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

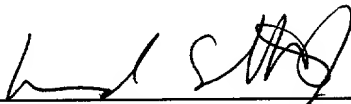
**REMARKS**

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary  
Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 17, 2001

By:   
Leonard Smith, Jr.  
Reg. No. 45,118

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LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000